

Terrorism, Criminality, and Immigration

Alex Nowrasteh, Cato Institute

@AlexNowrasteh

Risk of Terrorism & Crime

- The supposed danger of immigrants is a major argument.
- Risk of being murdered in an attack committed by a foreign-born terrorist inside of the United States.
- Incarceration rates of immigrants by their legal status.

Terrorism: Calculating the Risk

- Number of foreign-born terrorists attacking or planning an attack on U.S. soil.
- Murders and damage caused.
- Visas used.
- Total number of visas issued.
- Tourists and non-immigrants are most deadliest.

Headline Results: 1975-2015

- 154 foreign-born terrorists.
- 3,024 killed in foreign-born terrorist attacks on U.S. soil.
 - 98.6 percent on 9/11.
 - 3,432 Americans murdered on U.S. soil by all terrorists.
 - 24 since 9/11 to end of 2015.
- 88 percent of all deaths by terrorism on U.S. soil caused by foreigners.

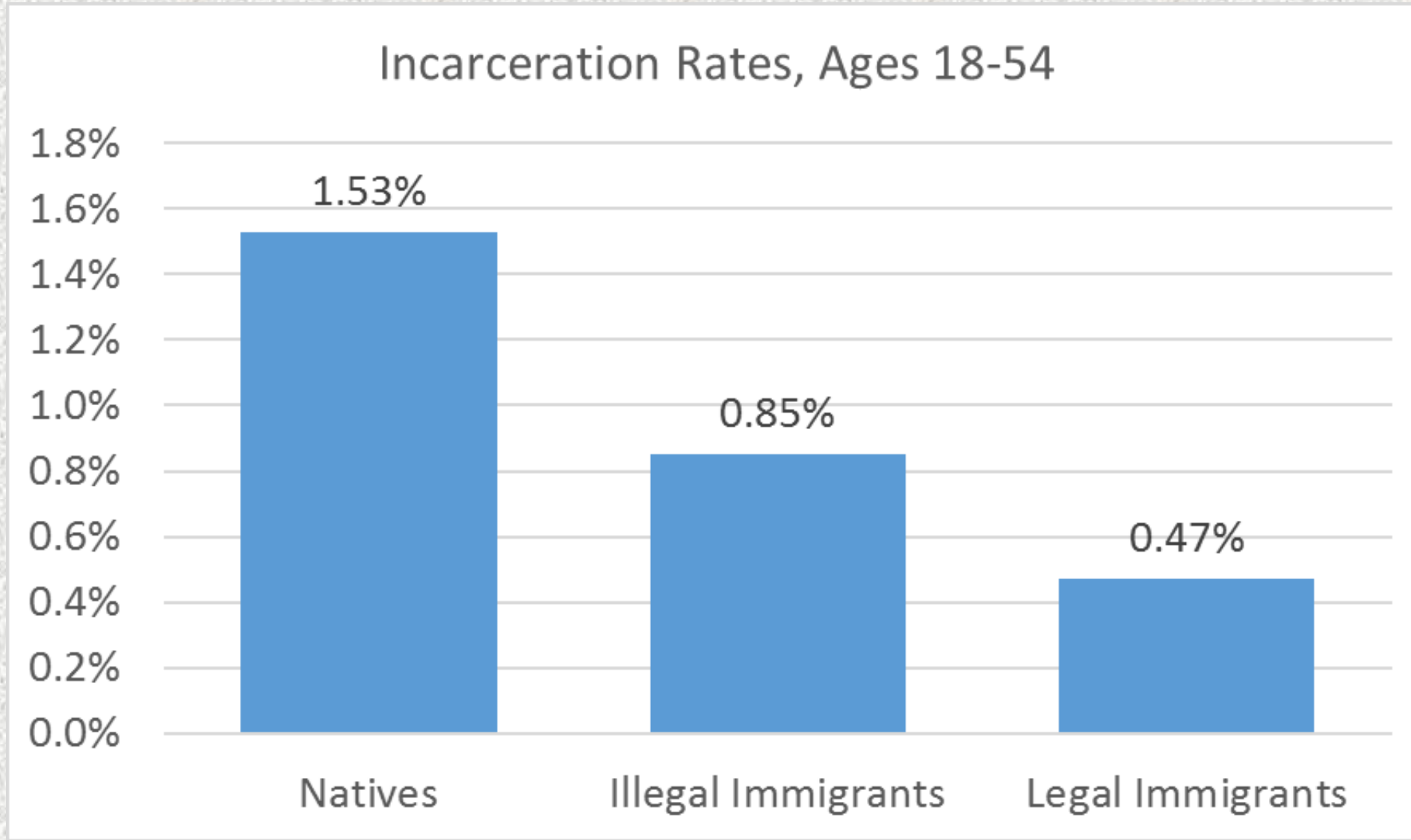
Annual Chance of Dying in FB Terrorism: 1975-2015

Visa	Deaths	Annual Chance
Illegal	1	10,915,761,281
LPR	10	1,091,576,128
Unknown	1.5	7,277,174,187
Refugee	3	3,638,587,094
Asylum	4	2,728,940,320
K-1	14	779,697,234
Student	158.5	68,869,156
Tourist	2832	3,854,435
VWP	0	0

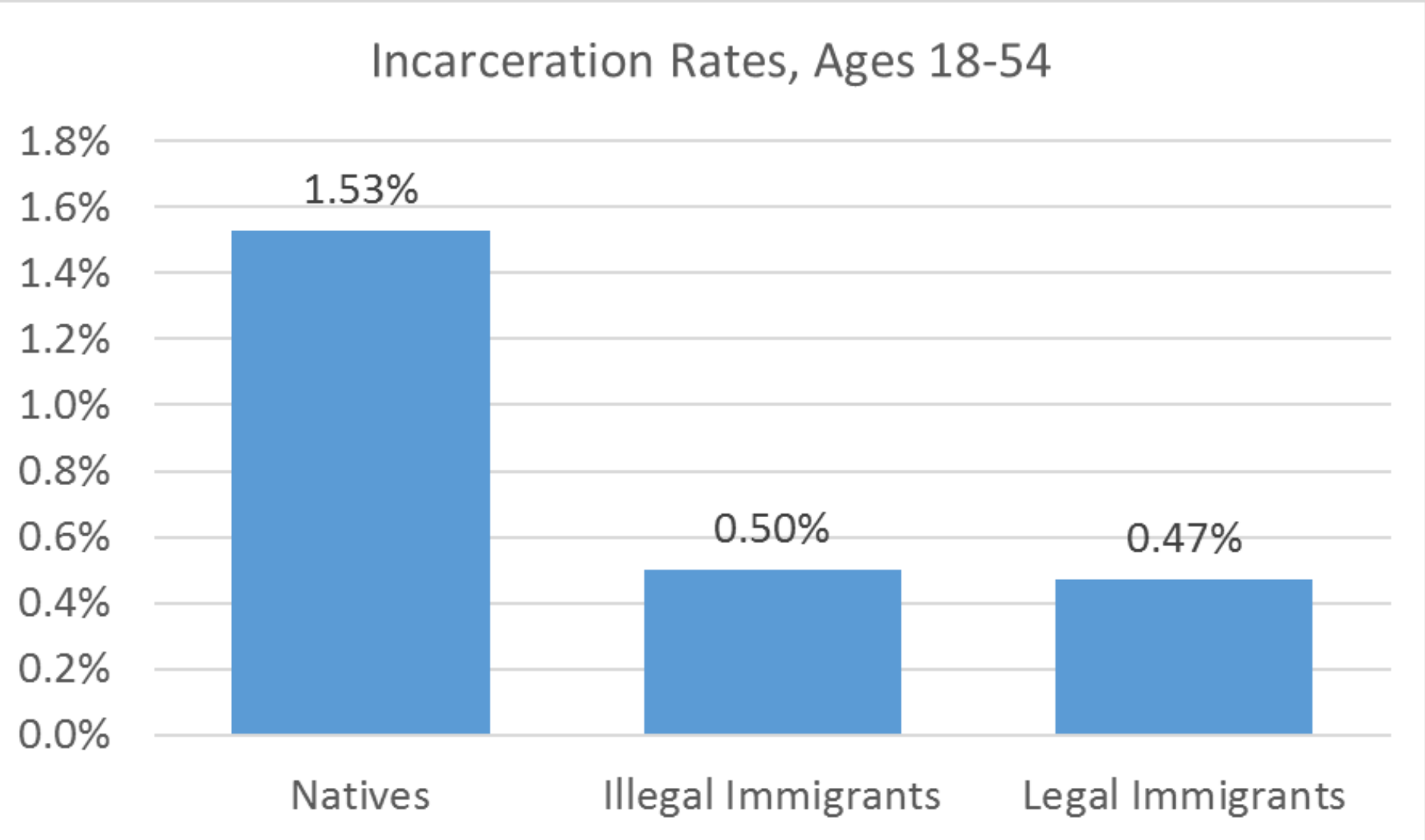
Terrorists Per Visa Category

Visa	Terrorists	Entries Per Category	Visas Per Terrorist
Unknown	9	N/A	N/A
VWP^	3	388,024,058	129,341,353
Tourist*	34	657,934,182	19,351,005
Illegal	10	26,519,625	2,651,963
Student*	19	24,176,617	1,272,454
LPR	54	34,829,485	644,990
K-1*	1	604,132	604,132
Asylum	4	700,522	175,131
Refugee	20	3,252,493	162,625
*1981 onwards			
^1986 onwards			

Crime: Incarcerations Rates



Excluding Immigration – Only Offenses



Conclusion

- Small risk of foreign-born terrorism.
- 768,000 murders 1975-2015.
 - Terrorism is 0.39% of that.
 - 255 times as likely to be murdered in homicide, per year.
- Immigrants have lower incarceration rates than natives.